

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 141894
ORIGIN SAB-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 OES-07 INT-05 DODE-00 PM-05
EPA-01 CEQ-01 /032 R

DRAFTED BY S/AB:MJSPEAR:PS
APPROVED BY S/AB:AMB. POPPER
ARA/PAN MR. HAAHR
RA/LA MR. MARWITZ
ARA/PAN MR. WYROUGH
OES/EN MR. MANSFIELD
-----079163 060053Z /62
P 052228Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 141894

E.O. 11652:

TAGS: SENV, PQ, PN

SUBJECT: MEETING ON DEFORESTATION IN THE CANAL AREA

1. ON JUNE 1 AMBASSADOR POPPER, INTERIOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HERBST AND THEIR STAFFS MET IN ARMY ASSISTANT SEC. BLUMENFELD'S OFFICE TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM OF DEFORESTATION IN THE CANAL ZONE AREA.

2. MR. BLUMENFELD AND COL. CRITTENDEN REPORTED ON THEIR MAY 16 INSPECTION OF SLASH-AND-BURN DAMAGE IN THE ZONE AND ESTIMATED THAT 7-8 PERCENT OF THE ZONE AREA HAS BEEN DEFORESTED. THEY PUT THE NUMBER OF SQUATTER FAMILIES IN THE ZONE AT 85 UNLICENSED AND 17 LICENSED WEST OF THE CANAL AND 32 ILLEGAL AND 20 LEGAL FAMILIES ON THE EAST SIDE. (ARMY WILL TRY TO GET MORE DEFINITIVE FIGURES.) AMBASSADOR
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 141894

POPPER NOTED THE POLITICAL PROBLEM THROUGHOUT LATIN AMERICA OF TRYING TO REMOVE SQUATTERS. MR. HERBST NOTED THE RECENT VISIT OF THE INTERIOR TEAM AND INQUIRED ABOUT THE EFFECTS OF DEFORESTATION ON WILDLIFE AND SILTATION.

3. WE DESCRIBED THE AID WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROJECT AND ITS STATUS, BUT CAUTIONED THAT ITS IMPACT WOULD BE LONG-TERM

AND THAT IT WAS UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT IT WOULD BRING RELIEF TO THE DEFORESTATION PROBLEM IN THE SHORT RUN.

4. MR. BLUMENFELD STATED THAT THE CANAL COMPANY IS IN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING A PLAN OF ACTION FOR REMOVING THE SQUATTERS AND PREVENTING FURTHER DEFORESTATION. THIS WOULD BE CARRIED OUT WITH PANAMANIAN ASSISTANCE AND HAS INVOLVED SOME DISCUSSIONS WITH PANAMANIAN REPRESENTATIVES.

5. WE NOTED EVIDENCE OF GROWING PANAMANIAN CONCERN ABOUT DEFORESTATION AND DISTRIBUTED COPIES OF THE EMBASSY'S A-40 AND THE PART OF TAYLOR'S LETTER OF MAY 23 CONCERNING AN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE. WE ASKED THAT THE EMBASSY BE KEPT INFORMED OF THE PLAN OF ACTION AS IT DEVELOPS, IN VIEW OF THE NEED TO SECURE HIGH-LEVEL GOP SUPPORT FOR THIS OPERATION. THE GROUP AGREED TO MEET ONCE THE PLAN HAS BEEN FORMULATED IN ORDER TO REVIEW IT; ACTION RESPONSIBILITY OF COURSE, WOULD NECESSARILY REMAIN IN PANAMA.

6. THE DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING THE EMBASSY'S VIEWS ON THE DESIRABILITY OF INCLUDING SOME REFERENCE TO PRESERVATION OF THE CANAL WATERSHED'S ENVIRONMENT IN THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS DURING HIS VISIT, AS WELL AS THE CHANCES THAT THE PANAMANIAN WOULD BE AMENABLE TO MAKING SOME SIMILAR REFERENCE. VANCE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 141894

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CANALS, SOIL EROSION, SQUATTERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE141894
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MJSPEAR:PS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780235-0201
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780694/aaaaddmx.tel
Line Count: 94
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7e733d92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SAB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2485595
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING ON DEFORESTATION IN THE CANAL AREA
TAGS: SENV, SOCI, PQ, PN
To: PANAMA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7e733d92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014